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WITHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1960

together with the

REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.



BRAINTREE, DUNMOW AND WITHAM
COMBINED SANITARY DISTRICTS

*With the Compliments
of
The Medical Officer of Health*

Public Health Offices
Town Hall
Braintree

Braintree
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WITHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman:

Cllr. T.R. Mott, C.C.

Members:

Cllr. R.S. Brown.

Cllr. J. Dalley.

Cllr. J. Howe.

Cllr. D.J. Maidment, J.P.

Cllr. W.A. Marsh.

Cllr. A.E. Moss.

Cllr. S.J. Soar, J.P. (ex officio)

Cllr. S.E. Smith (ex officio)

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health:

C.R.C. RAINSFORD, M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Inspector of Meat and Other Foods:

E.H.C. WADHAMS, F.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I., A.M.I.P.H.E.

Additional Public Health Inspector and Inspector of Meat and Other Foods:

D.C. YOUNG, M.A.P.H.I. (resigned April, 1960).

D. STEDMAN, M.A.P.H.I. (appointed August, 1960).

Clerical Assistants:

R.G. CHAPMAN (Senior).

M.G. BLIZZARD (Junior). (H.M. Forces throughout year).

MRS. B.E. FRANKLIN (Part-time Shorthand-Typist).

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
Braintree.

August, 1961.

To the Chairman and Members of Witham Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my annual report for the year 1960 on the health, vital statistics and sanitary circumstances of the district. I have included certain particulars of clinics controlled by the Essex County Council and for these I am indebted to the Area Medical Officer, Chelmsford.

Vital Statistics.

The Registrar General's estimated population is 9,070, an increase of 100 over 1959. Ten years ago (1950) the population was 8,457.

Total live births numbered 162 compared with 148 in the previous year.

There were 110 deaths, giving a corrected death rate of 12.9 per 1,000 estimated population. The rate for 1959 was 10.8.

There were no maternal deaths.

There were 7 infant deaths giving an infantile mortality figure of 38.7 per 1,000 live births.

The causes of death were:- Prematurity 3, Asphyxia from inhalation of vomit 2, Meningocele 1 and Cause Unknown 1.

Notifiable Infectious Disease.

Not a single case of measles was notified during 1960 and the grand total of notifications was only 37. As far as I know both these figures are record lows.

While gratifying, it should be remembered that measles commonly follows a biennial cycle, a year of low incidence being followed by a year of high.

Immunisation and Vaccination.

As in previous years, this work was carried out by general practitioners and at the Essex County Council Clinics.

Details of the work done can be found later in this report and it is satisfactory to see that appreciably more children were immunised against diphtheria in 1960 than in 1959. There have been several little outbreaks of diphtheria in other parts of the country so it is essential that we make every

effort to keep the number of children protected by immunisation as high as possible.

In March 1960, vaccination against Poliomyelitis was extended to cover all persons from the age of 6 months and up to 40 years of age. Nearly 2,000 anti-poliomyelitis injections were given throughout the year.

Enviromental Hygiene.

Your Chief Public Health Inspector has dealt with enviromental hygiene in his usual able manner in the second part of this report. I will content myself with a brief comment on housing.

Books have been written on the relation between housing and health and there can be no doubt that overcrowded slum conditions favour the spread of tuberculosis and other infectious diseases.

It is not so easy to assess the amount of ill health, mental and physical, due to a shortage of houses. It is by no means negligible.

Witham has no real slum problem, but at the end of 1960 there were 195 names on the Council's housing waiting list, an increase of 37 over 1959.

Probably not all of these are in urgent need of housing, but among them there must be a number of young married people waiting for houses of their own and old people looking forward to going into bungalows with modern amenities and without stairs.

Most of the house building in 1960 was done by private enterprise 74 houses completed as against 8 bungalows by the Council. Nearly all the privately built houses were taken up by people from outside the district, so there would seem to be a strong case for building more Council houses.

National Assistance Act, 1948. Section 47.

It was not necessary to move anyone under the provision of this Act.

I am grateful to Mr. Wadhams and the staff of the Public Health Department for the efficient way in which they have carried out their various tasks. It is a pleasure to record my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their interest and support and to all Officers of the Council for their co-operation at all times.

I am,
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

C.R.C. RAINSFORD.

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Collingwood Road,
Witham.

August, 1961.

To the Chairman and Members of the Witham Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present, incorporated in the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health, details of the work of your Public Health Department during 1960.

The year was characterised by no event of outstanding public health importance, but the progress related in previous years was maintained. To some extent the departmental routine suffered because of staff shortage, increases in some aspects of the work, and the impact of the growth of the district on the public services. This pressure is likely to become greater as development proceeds.

Full information with regard to the housing position will be found later in this report. I would merely say that the increase in private house building appears to have had little or no effect upon the shortage of dwellings. While no serious overcrowding exists, there is still an unsatisfied demand for homes, particularly for elderly people and also for young families for whom present house purchase rates are prohibitive.

The public services remained adequate for the district's needs, though all are under review to ensure that they keep pace with development. The Council's water undertaking, controlled by the Engineer and Surveyor, provides ample water of good quality to all parts of the area, with the exception of a few outlying properties, and the output of the Bradwell Springs pumping station was appreciably increased. Consulting Engineers have been instructed to report upon the sewer and sewage disposal systems of the Witham Town area, as these are beginning to show the effect of current overload and cannot be expected to cope with anticipated future flows. A new trunk sewer to serve the industrial estate was in progress at the end of the year and a sewage works extension scheme is being prepared. The refuse collection and disposal services were maintained satisfactorily and a mechanical digger/loader purchased to improve efficiency and reduce hand labour in controlled tipping. Pressure on the collection service will be met by the replacement in 1961 of an old side-loading vehicle by a rear-loading one of greater capacity.

Food hygiene has been generally very good, except that conditions remained unsatisfactory at a large private slaughterhouse and the Council were constrained to take strong action concerning this in December.

Details of the many and varied duties of the Department are included in the following pages. I would like to thank the Council for the support and encouragement I have received and the Clerk and other Officers for their ready assistance. I would especially like to express my thanks once again to my own staff, office and manual, for their work during the year and for their loyal support at all times.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

E.H.C. WADHAMS.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

STATISTICS AND LOCAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	7,329
Population (Registrar-General's estimate)	...	...	...	...	9,070
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	3,010
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£127,518
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	£495

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
Legitimate	155	88	67	
Illegitimate	7	-	7	
Total live births	-	162.		
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	...	17.9
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births			...	4.3
Birth rate corrected by comparability figure of 1.12	...	...	...	20.1
Birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 population			...	17.1

STILL BIRTHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
Legitimate	1	1	-	
Illegitimate	-	-	-	
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	...	...	...	6.1
Rate per 1,000 total births England and Wales	...	...	...	19.7
Total live and still births	-	163		

INFANT DEATHS

Deaths of infants under 1 year:-

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	6	4	2
Illegitimate	1	1	-

Total infant deaths - 7

INFANT MORTALITY RATES

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	...	...	...	43.2
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	38.7
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births			...	142.9
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)				30.9

Early Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	...	...	...	...	...	30.9
Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	...	...	...	...	...	36.8
Infantile mortality for England and Wales per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	21.7

MATERNAL MORTALITY (including abortion)

Number of deaths	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

DEATHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
	110	59	51	
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	...	12.1
Death rate corrected by comparability figure of 1.07	...	...	...	12.9
Death rate per 1,000 population England and Wales	...	...	...	11.5

All the above rates are calculated on the estimated population given by the Registrar-General.

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES, 1960.

The Table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar-General and the classification is given under the thirty-six headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948.

<u>Cause of Death</u>				<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	-	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	-	-
8.	Measles	...	...	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	-	-
0.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	2	1
1.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	4	1
2.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	-	4
3.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	-	1
4.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	2	7
5.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	1	-
6.	Diabetes	...	...	1	1
7.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	7	9
8.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	9	8
9.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	2	-
0.	Other heart disease	...	...	4	6
1.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	4	1
2.	Influenza	...	...	1	-
3.	Pneumonia	...	...	4	3
4.	Bronchitis	...	...	4	1
5.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	-	-
6.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	-	-
7.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	1	-
8.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	1	-
9.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	-	-
0.	Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	...	...	-	-
1.	Congenital malformations	...	...	-	1
2.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	7	4
3.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	-	-
4.	All other accidents	...	...	3	-
5.	Suicide	...	...	2	2
6.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	-	-
All causes				59	51

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

(a) Under the control of the Essex County Council:-

(i) Clinics were held at the following Centres during the year:-

WITHAM Essex County Health Services Clinic, Guithavon Street.

				<u>Attendances</u>
Child Welfare	1st. and 3rd. Wednesdays	2 p.m.		1137
School Clinic	1st. and 3rd. Thursdays	9 a.m.		134
Dental	Thursday and Friday	10 a.m.		
		(By Appt.)		1370
Ante-Natal	1st. Thursday	10 a.m.		
		(By Appt.)		
Speech Therapy	Every Friday	10 a.m.		372

SILVER END Garden Village Hall.

Child Welfare	1st. Friday	2 p.m.	140
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RIVENHALL Church Hall.

Child Welfare	3rd. Monday	2 p.m.	184
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(ii) Home Help Service

This useful service is administered from the Area Health Office, 75, Springfield Road, Chelmsford.

(iii) Ambulance Service

The Essex County Council Ambulance Station is situated at Guithavon Street, Witham. There is one ambulance and one car for sitting cases. A full 24-hour cover is provided.

(iv) Laboratory Services

The Essex County Council provide a laboratory service which includes the bacteriological and chemical analysis of water samples, the chemical analysis of sewage effluents and the bacteriological examination of ice-cream, and the examination of other foods for pathogenic organisms. These examinations are carried out either by the Counties Public Health Laboratories, Thresh House, Verulam Street, Grays Inn Road, W.C. 1, or by the Public Health Laboratory, Chelmsford and Essex Hospital, New London Road, Chelmsford.

(b) Under the control of the North-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board

- (i) Chest Clinics Held twice weekly at St. Michael's Hospital, Braintree
- (ii) Orthopaedic Clinics These are held every 4th. Tuesday afternoon at the Essex County Health Services Clinic, Guithavon Street, Witham. Orthopaedic patients who need special advice are referred to Black Notley Hospital.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DISEASE	TOTAL NOTIFIED	ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL	TOTAL DEATHS
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	2	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	7	-	-
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	10	4	1
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	1	-	-
Whooping Cough	16	1	-
TOTALS	37	5	1

DISEASE	Total Notified.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	2	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	7	1	2	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	10	5	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	1
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Whooping Cough	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	8	3
TOTALS	37	7	4	1	-	1	-	2	-	3	5	9	5

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED ACCORDING TO AGE.

Disease	At all ages	Under 1 year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over	Age Unknown
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	7	-	1	-	1	2	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	10	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	1	-	1	-
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	16	1	3	-	4	-	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following Table gives particulars of the 10 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and one case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis notified during the year.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 2 years	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 - 3 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 - 4 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4 - 5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 10 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 15 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 20 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 35 years	-	7	-	-	-	1	-	-
35 - 45 years	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
45 - 65 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	1	9	-	1	-	1	-	-

Of these, 4 cases were re-notified on taking up residence in this district.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

Children who completed a full course of primary immunisation during the year.				Children who were given a reinforcing injection during the year.			
By General Practitioners.		By County Council Staff.		By General Practitioners.		By County Council Staff.	
<u>1960</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1959</u>
(a) 136	(a) 94	52	30	52	33	176	93
Totals: 1960 - 188 1959 - 124				Totals: 1960 - 228 1959 - 126			

IMMUNISATION AGAINST WHOOPING COUGH.

Children who completed a full course of immunisation under the County Scheme.				Records of combined diphtheria pertussis Immunisation received.	
By General Practitioners.		By County Council Staff.			
<u>1960</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1959</u>
116	81	16	11	(b) 56	(b) 14
Reinforcing injections	<u>1960</u> 3 <u>1959</u> 1	<u>1960</u> - <u>1959</u> 3		<u>1960</u> 32	<u>1959</u> 3

Note: Figure (b) is included in Figure (a).

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX.

	<u>1960</u>	<u>1959</u>
Number vaccinated during the year	93	76
Number re-vaccinated during the year	30	25

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS.

	<u>1960</u>	<u>1959</u>
Number of persons who have received 2nd. injection	908	523
Number of persons who have received 3rd. injection	1085	1289

HOUSING.

The Council built no new houses during the year, though 8 bungalows for aged persons were completed. A further 23 bungalows were under construction at the end of the year, for completion early in 1961. While more houses could well be utilised, the Council has felt unable to proceed with house-building, owing to the increasing cost of building, the lack of subsidy and the prevailing high interest rates. There was, however, an increase in the number of houses built by private enterprise during the year, 74 being completed and a further 95 being in course of construction at December 31st.

The number of new houses erected in the Urban District since the end of the war is as follows:-

By the local authority: 694 (including 84 prefabricated bungalows)
By private enterprise: 236

The number of applicants for Council Houses was 195 at the end of 1960, compared with 158 at December 31st. 1959. This figure included the following categories:-

Ordinary list	89 applicants.
Aged persons	48
Single persons	6
Supplementary list	5
Exchange list	8
Engaged Couples list	34
Industrial Workers list	<u>5</u>
	<u>195</u>

It will be seen from these figures that the demand for Council Houses again increased, while the demand for old persons' accommodation remained fairly static. It is thought, however, that the figure of 48 shown above does not fully represent the need for the latter type of dwelling and the demand will no doubt continue to increase. The Council are considering the possibility of providing hostel-type flatlets with a resident warden, for the accommodation of old people in need of occasional assistance, but normally capable of maintaining their small independent units.

In addition, the Council has gone ahead with its scheme for building houses for sale and are offering these houses, in the first instance to the present tenants of their Council estates, thus making available some of the existing accommodation for applicants on the above list. A pleasant site for 77 houses is being laid out and it is hoped that good progress will be made towards completion during 1961.

Private estate building increased momentum during the year. The trend towards extensive residential development was again apparent during 1960. It is obvious, however, that this trend cannot materialise until

either the land (or some of it) now zoned for "overspill" development is released, or further land not yet included in the development plan, is made available.

Pre-War Council Houses. The Council has continued with schemes for the modernisation of these. 8 houses were provided with hot water systems, bathrooms and kitchen improvements; 2 old persons' bungalows were converted to provide similar amenities; and 7 bungalows were fitted with new electrical installations prior to other improvements to follow during 1961.

Within recent years the following improvements have been effected:-

Pail closet conversions to W.C's and sewer connections:	52 houses.
Hot water systems to baths, sinks and new lavatory basins:	52 houses.
Back addition kitchens with hot water systems and bathroom conversions:	6 houses.
Back addition bathrooms with hot water systems:	12 houses.
Kitchen and bathroom additions with hot water systems:	12 houses.
Internal W.C's, hot water systems and improved cooking and washing arrangements:	30 houses.
Internal W.C's, hot water systems, and improved cooking and washing arrangements with bathrooms:	9 houses.
Complete electrical circuit installations:	7 houses.

The Council's programme covering over 200 pre-war houses aims at their complete modernisation by the end of 1961.

Housing and Public Health Acts.

Progress with regard to sub-standard private houses was continued. The following data shows the work undertaken during the year:-

(a) Clearance Orders:	2 Orders (6 houses) confirmed by Minister. 8 houses vacated. 3 houses demolished.
(b) Demolition Orders:	Nil..
(c) Closing Orders:	2 Orders (one in respect of underground rooms) in process of being made.
(d) Voluntary undertakings by owners:	1 undertaking to demolish. 1 undertaking to recondition or demolish within 18 months. 1 undertaking to convert living accommodation to other purposes.

The following was the state of condemned and closed properties at the end of the year:-

Houses in Clearance Areas awaiting demolition: occupied	4.
vacant	12.
Houses subject to Demolition Orders, still occupied:	1.
Houses and Flats subject to Closing Orders:	4.
Parts of houses subject to Closing Orders:	
(a) Flats:	1.
(b) Underground rooms:	8.
Houses and flats subject to undertakings not to re-let:	10.

In 1955 the Council submitted its Clearance Programme for the next 5 years to the Minister of Housing and Local Government. At that time a total of 57 houses was listed as unfit and suitable for clearance. Since then 38 have been demolished, but as a result of further surveys a number of other properties have been added to the list and at the end of 1960 there were some 30 houses remaining to be dealt with. Progress during 1960 was again impeded by shortage of staff and of accommodation available for rehousing. The programme has, therefore, not been fulfilled but good progress has been made. A further survey will be carried out in 1961 and a new programme submitted for consideration.

Improvement Grants: Housing Acts, 1949-59.

During the year the number of applications for grant increased. A total of 26 were received and dealt with.

Details of applications for Discretionary Grant during the past 6 years are as follows:-

	<u>1955.</u>	<u>1956.</u>	<u>1957.</u>	<u>1958.</u>	<u>1959.</u>	<u>1960.</u>
Submitted:	10.	8.	6.	3.	1.	7.
Granted:	9.	8.	5.	2.	1.	7.
Refused:	1.	-	1.	1.	-	-
Withdrawn:	-	3.	1.	-	-	-
Schemes completed:	-	12.	4.	8.	1.	1.

In addition, under the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, 12 applications were received for Standard Grants in respect of 12 houses. All these were approved and 11 were completed before the end of the year. In all, a total of 20 Standard Grant schemes have been approved, 13 having been completed.

The Rent Act, 1957.

A few occasional enquiries are still received and advice is given but the Act has been a "dead letter" so far as the Urban District is concerned and, as a means of improving the repair standard of rented property, it has been a failure.

The following table summarises action taken in connection with the inspection of dwellinghouses during the year 1960.

1. Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year:

(a) Total number inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	109.
(b) Number found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	3.
(c) Number (exclusive of those referred to under sub-heading (b) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	48.

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice:

(a) Number of houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or its Officers	40.
(b) Number of other defective conditions remedied after informal action by Local Authority or its Officers ...	12.

3. Action under Statutory Powers - Housing Acts, 1936-1957:

(a) Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil.
(b) Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit after service of formal notice	Nil.
(c) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil.
(d) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil.
(e) Number of Undertakings accepted	3.

4. Number of Dwellinghouses demolished:

(a) In pursuance of Clearance Orders	3.
(b) In pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil.
(c) Voluntarily by Owners	Nil.

5. Overcrowding:

(a) Houses found to be overcrowded	Nil.
(b) Overcrowding abated	Nil.

It should be understood that many investigations are made of alleged overcrowding, and cases are found that can only be described as such. The legal standard is so inadequate, however, that only very rarely is a dwelling so grossly over-occupied as to fall within the statutory definition.

WATER SUPPLY.

Supplies to the Urban District mains remained the same during the year: the South Essex Water Company's supply from the Abberton impounded reservoir and the Council's Bradwell Springs supply (deep spring) Silver End and Rivenhall are fed by the Bradwell Springs undertaking, while the remainder of the Urban District receives a mixture of the Bradwell and South Essex supplies, both of which undergo chloramination at the source.

The Bradwell Springs undertaking, purchased in 1954, was maintained satisfactorily and without major incident, at the increased daily output of about 380,000 gallons.

The South Essex supply is used to implement the Bradwell source to current daily requirements and the Council holds a reservation with the South Essex Company ensuring adequate water for present needs.

Quality and quantity have been uniformly satisfactory throughout the year. Satisfactory pressure for all normal domestic and industrial purposes has been maintained, except in the northern part of the district where pressure has fluctuated with demand. The Bradwell supply has a slight corrosive tendency due to its high carbon dioxide content. Both supplies are very hard in character.

Consideration of proposals, arising out of the Spens Report, for the establishment of Joint Water Undertakings in the County continued during the year. The Council's suggestion that the Witham undertaking should be included in the proposed North-Essex Joint Water Board has been accepted.

Sampling:

Samples of mains supplies are submitted regularly for chemical analysis. Typical reports on the chemical quality of the two supplies are as follows:-

(a) Bradwell Springs Supply: Sampled at source on 2:11:1960.

"This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals. The water is very hard in character, but it contains no excess of mineral or saline constituents in solution. Its organic quality is of a high standard. These results indicate a water which, from the aspect of the chemical analysis, is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes".

11th. November, 1960.

Signed: Roy C. Hoather.

(b) South Essex Supply: Sampled at W.J. Bush & Co. Ltd., on 8:11:1960.

"This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals. The water is very hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive. The degree of organic impurity is not unduly marked. These results are indicative of a wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes".

14th. November, 1960.

Signed. Roy C. Hoather.

Samples for bacteriological examination of all public and private supplies are also submitted, at frequent intervals, both as a routine check on the maintenance of a satisfactory standard of purity and whenever any alteration, modification or interruption of services occurs. A summary of the year's reports on all supplies is given below:-

	<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
1. <u>Mains Water.</u>			
Chemical	5	-	5
Bacteriological	34	2	36
2. <u>Other Supplies.</u>			
Chemical	4	2	6
Bacteriological	<u>12</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>20</u>
Totals	<u>55</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>67</u>

No unsatisfactory chemical reports were received on mains water, though some green staining of kitchen utensils occurred when new copper services had been installed. This was due to the slightly corrosive action of the water and was found to be harmless. Two samples of mains water gave slightly unsatisfactory bacteriological results following work done at the Bradwell Pumping Station. Follow-up samples were satisfactory.

The 10 unsatisfactory samples from private sources were from 3 well supplies and one spring supply. In one case the owner has arranged for connection to the mains supply. In a second case the water had a high nitrate content making it unfit for babies and expectant mothers and a warning was issued. The two remaining cases were still under investigation at the end of the year, the tenants having been warned meanwhile to boil the water before drinking or domestic use.

House Connections etc.

Number of separate dwellings in the Urban District	...	...	3010.
Number of separate dwellings having internal piped mains supply			2967.
Estimated population so served	...	...	8953.
Number of separate dwellings connected during the year	...		82.
Number of separate dwellings served by standpipe	...	...	9.
Estimated population so served	...	...	22.
Remaining houses served by shallow wells or springs	...	...	30.
Estimated population so served	...	...	95.

The following extensions to the Council's mains were made during the year:-

3"	...	...	...	...	400 yards.
4"	...	...	...	...	1167 yards.
6"	...	...	...	...	633 yards.

All new mains are super-chlorinated by the Council's staff before being put into use.

Water Consumption and future requirements.

Total water supplied by:

1. Bradwell Springs:			
(a) To Silver End (estimated)	...	...	41,402,440 gallons.
(b) To remainder of Urban District			
(estimated)	...	...	89,170,279 gallons.
2. South Essex Water Company	...	...	57,268,000 gallons.
3. ex Braintree R.D.C. main (Bradwell)	...		Nil
4. Braintree Road supply	...	...	<u>Nil</u>
Total consumption			<u>187,840,719</u> gallons.

Average consumption per head per day:

Domestic demand	...	...	32.86 gallons.
Trade demand	...	...	24.65 gallons.
Total consumption per head per day	...		57.51 gallons.

The average consumption shows an increase of 5.88 gallons per head over the previous year. The steady increase in consumption maintained over the past thirteen years has not yet levelled off as was expected. Both domestic and industrial consumption is still increasing. The proportion of trade demand is already high and, while new industries are needed in the district, it may be difficult to encourage any which are very large water users.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

A further 77 properties were connected to the Council's sewers during the year. The following table shows the drainage facilities in use in the Urban District as reviewed at December, 1960:-

Houses connected to main sewer systems	2865.
Houses drained to septic tank systems, cesspools etc.	116.
Houses drained to ditches	23.
Houses without drainage	<u>6.</u>
Total	<u>3010.</u>

Of the 145 properties not connected to the sewers, very few are capable of connection. Almost all of them are outlying private and agricultural properties, for which no economic sewerage scheme appears to be possible. Of the houses in the last two categories, 12 are condemned and some of the remainder scheduled for demolition, or improvement to cesspool drainage. There will then remain about 130 dwellings permanently in need of the Council's cesspool emptying service. This provides free emptying three times annually for domestic cesspools, with additional emptying when required, on repayment. The rechargeable emptying service is also available to industrial and agricultural premises not connected to the sewer system.

Sewer systems:

There are four main drainage systems in the district, two serving the Witham town area at high and low levels, and one to serve each of the communities of Silver End and Rivenhall.

With the exception of one small section, all the systems operate by gravitational flow to the respective sewage works, though most of the sewage has then to be pumped to the head of the treatment plant. The Witham and Silver End systems are both liable to surcharge at times of heavy rainfall. The Witham low level system, to which has been connected the greater part of the post-war estate development, suffers especially in this respect and the Council have instructed their Consulting Engineers to survey and report upon this system.

Houses drained in Combination:

Difficulty is frequently encountered with the many combined drainage systems serving the older portion of the town. Many of these are badly constructed, difficult to trace and almost impossible of access. By virtue of Section 24 of the Public Health Act, 1936, most of them are public sewers maintainable by the Council at the expense of the owners whose properties they serve. Whenever defective conditions are found, the Council undertakes the necessary repair and improvement work, subsequently allocating the cost among the owners concerned.

Modern private estate development will involve large numbers of houses in different ownerships being drained in combination by private sewers. In view of the difficulty, in future years, of effecting proper maintenance of these lengths by the numerous individual owners concerned, it would be preferable for the Council to insist, at the planning stage, that these systems should be constructed as public sewers, and adopted by them on completion.

Sewer Extensions:

The laying of a new trunk sewer from the Industrial Estate to the Witham Sewage Works was commenced during 1960. This sewer is designed to take the industrial development flows and will also be capable of extension to the north-east part of the town to relieve the existing sewer system and to take additional flows from anticipated development in that area.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

There are four major sewage disposal plants in the Urban District, three owned by the Council and one administered by the Ministry of Works. The three Urban District Sewage Works serve the communities of Witham, Silver End and Rivenhall and the fourth plant treats sewage from the National Assistance Board's Hostel for Displaced Persons at Rivenhall Aerodrome Camp.

WITHAM SEWAGE WORKS.

A description of these works, with a designed capacity of 250,000 gallons per day dry weather flow, was given in the report for 1957, the first year of its operation following extensions. It was regrettable that owing to unavoidable delay between design and construction of these extensions, the very small margin of capacity allowed for development had already been taken up by the time the extended plant came into operation. Results from the works have been good, as indicated by routine analyses of effluent, but continuing development is now making itself felt. At the end of 1960, the plant was receiving an estimated dry weather flow of about 320,000 gallons per day, an overload of 28%. The purification capacity of the works has not been unduly affected by this, but the hydraulic load at periods of peak flow and during wet weather is proving too great for the humus tanks to deal with, and in a number of instances excess of suspended matter has been found in the effluent. This has been a matter of some concern for the Council and the Essex River Board, in view of known and anticipated future development, and the Council has instructed the Consulting Engineers to prepare a further scheme of extensions. It is expected that these will be in two stages, providing first for 500,000 gallons and later for 750,000 gallons dry weather flow respectively. As the first of these stages is unlikely to be completed before 1963-64, the Council has approved a proposal for the earlier construction of an effluent lake, of about 1,500,000 gallons capacity, for the purpose of balancing the quality of the effluent and further reducing its suspended matter and oxygen demand.

The overload on the plant was accentuated during 1960 by the continuous wet weather from July onwards, the daily flow gradually building up to a record level in December. At this time, even on dry days, due to the high

water table and increased infiltrations, an average of some 600,000 gallons passed through the works.

Operation and maintenance of the plant is necessarily expensive because of the large amount of pumping which has to be done and the widespread layout of the works. Weather conditions were unfavourable to good sludge drying and a third large sludge lagoon had to be constructed. Tests conducted with a de-watering machine were disappointing but further trials are to be made.

Some trouble was experienced from offensive smells produced in sludge drying, especially during the early summer. Lime dosing, to raise the alkalinity of the sludge, and the spraying of the sludge beds was maintained until the winter, as a precautionary measure. The Council is examining the possibility of a deodoriser installation to counteract this annoyance.

The crossing of the sewage works area by the proposed Witham by-pass will seriously interfere with the operation of the plant and the Council has approved in principle a proposal for the humus tank area and effluent outfall to be brought west of the by-pass line when the plant is extended, to avoid the difficulty of maintaining parts of the works on both sides of the trunk road.

Farmland:

The Council continued the cultivation of their land attached to the Witham Sewage Works. The land in question is that originally used by the old Witham Local Board of Health during the last century for sewage disposal by land irrigation. Of the 28 acres involved, 8 are taken up by the widespread nature of the sewage treatment plant. The remainder is under cultivation but will be cut in two and reduced by the proposed Witham by-pass. In addition, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres of completed refuse tipland have been cultivated.

The crops grown during 1960 were wheat, barley, runner beans, wallflower and lucerne. All were to some extent affected by continuous heavy rain, the wallflower failing completely. After making an appropriate deduction for administration costs, loss on the season amounted to £11.

The cultivation of this land, apart from contributing in a small way to reduction of sewage disposal costs, also has great value in that it enables ready disposal of the large quantities of sewage sludge produced. Raw bulk sludge, as removed from drying beds, is not favoured as fertiliser by farmers, because of its slow fertilising action, its labour requirement for distribution and its content of weed seeds. More and more authorities are inclining to the view that an area of land for sludge disposal is an economic asset to sewage disposal.

The financial return from this farmland during the thirteen years since the Council resumed cultivation is shown in the following table:-

Season.	Crops.	Profit.	Loss.
1947-48	Wheat, potatoes	63. 7. 10.	- -
1948-49	Barley, potatoes	294. 1. 4.	- -
1949-50	Wheat	2. 19. -.	- -
1950-51	Clover, mangold, flax	- - -	58. 7. 7
1951-52	Flax, wheat	128. 19. 3.	- -
1952-53	Wheat, clover, flax	335. 3. -.	- -
1953-54	Wheat, flax	212. 19. 10.	- -
1954-55	Wheat, flax	229. 14. 5.	- -
1955-56	Wheat, runner beans	279. 4. 4.	- -
1956-57	Wheat, runner beans, sugar beet, marrows	- - -	193. 3. 5
1957-58	Wheat, runner beans, sugar beet, marrows	104. 15. 8.	- -
1958-59	Wheat, barley, runner beans, broad beans, lucerne	67. 13. 9.	- -
1959-60	Wheat, barley, runner beans, wallflower, lucerne ...	- - -	11. -.
		1718. 18. 5.	262. 11. .

Net profit	£1456. 7. 5.
Net annual profit	£112. 0. 7.
Annual rental prior to 1947	£33.12. 6.

SILVER END SEWAGE WORKS.

This plant, serving the Silver End community of about 2,000, maintained its normal high standard of purification during the year. Increase domestic and trade flows involve overloading at peak periods, while in wet weather vast quantities of surface water are received with the sewage and the plant has no means of dealing with such flows. The Council's Consulting Engineers have compiled data on which a scheme of works extension can be prepared when the anticipated development of the area is more fully defined. Trade discharges from a light metal processing industry, which comprise up to 50% of the dry weather flow, are received by agreement with the Company concerned under the Public Health (Drainage of Trade Premises) Act, 1937. In view of the present load on the plant, negotiations are in progress with the Company for the reduction of the trade flow.

The average dry weather flow to the works is about 100,000 gallons daily, giving a theoretical retention period of 12 hours in the settlement tanks, and dosages of 110 gallons and 335 gallons respectively per cubic yard per day to the primary and secondary filters. Much of the peak flow has to by-pass the secondary filters and before discharge to the effluent stream is passed through an improvised settlement and aeration line.

The effluent from the works discharges into a very small stream, affording little dilution, and which itself discharges into a large private lake. It is, therefore, essential to maintain a high degree of purification to avoid any polluting effect.

RIVENHALL SEWAGE WORKS.

This modern plant which has been operating since 1953, maintained a satisfactory record throughout the year. It now receives slightly more than its designed dry weather flow of 18,000 gallons per day, which was based on the planning policy at the time of its construction, when little additional development of the village was anticipated. It is emphasised that any major alteration of that policy cannot be provided for without extension of the sewage works. Already, two additional sludge lagoons have had to be constructed to deal with present sludge output.

RIVENHALL CAMP SEWAGE WORKS.

This plant, constructed during the war to serve the Aerodrome, has treated the sewage from displaced persons occupying the camp under the control of the National Assistance Board. As the camp is now closed, the plant is falling into disuse. It is unfortunate that it is not situated where it could be utilised for the treatment of part of the district's sewage.

SAMPLING OF SEWAGE EFFLUENTS.

	<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Witham Sewage Works	30	12	42
Silver End Sewage Works	6	-	6
Rivenhall Sewage Works	4	2	6

In each case, the unsatisfactory samples from the Witham works contained excess suspended matter. In other respects they satisfied the Royal Commission standard and also showed good nitrification. The excess humus content occurred in samples taken during the Spring "flush" and at the latter end of the year when flows were very high. The general level of purification is very good indeed, considering the present overload on the plant.

Reports on the Silver End effluent were consistently good throughout the year. At Rivenhall, two samples showed the effect of the Spring "flush" of humus, but this was quickly overcome and good results obtained during the remainder of the year.

The amount of sampling is limited by the cost of laboratory analysis and this is used mainly to keep a check on the operation of the Witham plant, but elementary chemical tests are frequently applied to samples from various points of the three sewage works. Some hundreds of these were done by the Department's Sewage Works Manager during the year and were very useful in checking results of variation in flow, use of precipitants, alterations in operation routine and the relative efficiency of different tanks and filters.

DRAINAGE OF TRADE PREMISES.

The control of trade discharges from local industries has been described fully in previous reports, and has been maintained throughout 1960. For the size of the district, large quantities of different chemical and organic wastes are discharged to the sewer systems. Further industrial wastes will come under control when the new Industrial Estate sewer is laid, and with the operation of the proposed new Public Health Act.

Liaison is maintained with factory managements, the Essex River Board and the South-Essex Waterworks Company, and joint investigations of the problems have led to mutually satisfactory solutions. A review of the whole question of trade waste reception and treatment is being made in conjunction with the scheme for sewage works extensions. Some of the industrial wastes are already subject to agreement between the Companies concerned and the Council under the Public Health (Drainage of Trade Premises) Act, 1937. With the help of the new Act, it is hoped that the review will provide for adequate reimbursement of the Council of the heavy cost of providing for the reception and disposal of large quantities of industrial sewage.

Samples of trade effluents are regularly submitted for laboratory examination and reports were received on 20 such samples during the year. In addition, samples of raw sewage showing any marked abnormality are also submitted. During 1960, one or two minor infringements to agreed limits were found and rectified, but no seriously harmful discharge was encountered. One trade waste agreement, due to expire during 1960, was renewed for a further twelve months, pending review, and terms were approved for a further agreement in another case.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Street sweeping, road gritting and other highway cleansing services are maintained respectively by the Essex County Council Highways Department and the Council's Works Department on the county and district roads.

The remaining services, refuse collection and disposal, salvage recovery, cesspool and gulley emptying and sewer flushing, are administered by the Council's Public Health Department.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Collection:

The collection of house refuse for the whole of the Urban District was maintained during the year, providing a weekly collection from all parts of the area.

Two standard side-loading vehicles were employed on collection of refuse, of 8 and 11 cubic yards capacity respectively. The smaller of the two, purchased in 1946, is to be replaced by a new 16 cubic yard rear-loading machine during 1961.

During recent years refuse has become increasingly bulky, though of lower density. It is therefore considered that the larger capacity vehicle is needed to provide economic collection in the built-up areas.

Disposal:

Controlled tipping has continued throughout the year on the Council's land adjoining the River Blackwater, where marshland is being made up. Tipping in this area will add some 10 acres of useful agricultural land to that now farmed at the adjoining sewage works. This tip area is now almost full, but it will require much additional covering material before final levelling and cultivation can be done. The acquisition of further marshland meadow, liable to flooding, has been agreed and the Council has obtained planning approval for its use for the purpose. Operation of the new tip site cannot commence however before alterations in the Brain valley are completed in connection with the Witham by-pass. For use in the meantime, permission has been obtained to fill a small disused gravel pit adjoining the sewage works. The Council also has in mind the possible reclamation of other low-lying riverside land by tipping, to provide public open space within the town area. For these purposes, the Council has purchased a mechanical digger/loader. With this machine, economic tipping can be maintained, adequate cover material can be supplied at all times and the general efficiency of the disposal service improved.

Further consideration of refuse separation and sludge composting has been postponed until it can be seen whether future development of the district will make such a scheme reasonably economic.

SALVAGE.

Collection of salvage is effected in conjunction with house refuse collection, with the exception of a special collection which is made weekly from trade premises. Figures for the 1960/61 financial year, given in the following Table, show an increase of £130 in income. A profit of £417 was made, after payment of bonus amounting to £552. 17. 10d. to the collection staff.

	1959-60						1960-61					
	Weight			Value			Weight.			Value.		
	tons	cwts.	qrs.	£.	s.	d.	tons	cwts.	qrs.	£.	s.	d.
Waste Paper	197.	4.	1½.	1618.	17.	7.	222.	18.	2½.	1852.	4.	10.
Rags	6.	17.	-	136.	19.	7.	7.	1.	2½.	125.	8.	11.
Sacking	1.	4.	3.	6.	3.	6.	1.	1.	1.	5	6.	2.
Scrap Iron	23.	19.	3.	76.	10.	0.	26.	14.	0½.	84.	16.	4.
Non-ferrous metal	2.	3.	1.	218.	8.	7.	1.	13.	1.	109.	11.	0.
Jars and bottles	2.	2.	-.	36.	10.	9.	2.	10.	-.	37.	10.	6.
Miscellaneous				2.	-.	7.				10.	18.	0.
Totals	233.	11.	0½.	2095.	10.	7.	261.	18.	3½.	2225.	15.	9.

The fall in value of rags, sacking and sorted metals, noted in 1959, continued in 1960 and income from these has suffered accordingly. Paper prices have remained stable. Costs of collection, sorting and baling, and despatch are rising faster than income. Nevertheless, the salvage scheme is still worthwhile financially and from the aspect that it prevents a great quantity of light bulky material from having to be disposed of at the refuse tip. The rate of collection compares most favourably with the national average, but much salvageable material still goes into dustbins.

Cesspool, Gulley Emptying and Sewer Flushing.

The following work was performed by the Council's cesspool emptier during the year:-

Domestic emptyings (free service)	136 cesspools,	156 loads.	156,000 gallons.
Rechargeable work:	360 cesspools,	585 loads.	585,000 gallons.
Trade Waste removal:		626 loads.	626,000 gallons.
	<hr/>		
	496 cesspools,	1,367 loads.	1,367,000 gallons.
	<hr/>		

The work performed by this vehicle, now in its 11th. year of service, is still increasing. The above figures are about 10% above those for 1959 and the stage has been reached when the rechargeable work done pays the full annual cost of the machine and the wages of the two men employed on it. It is, of course, approaching the end of its useful life and its replacement must soon be considered.

The liquid wastes removed are disposed of at the Council's refuse tip by the adoption of a special tipping routine to form large lagoons on the tipland, as previously described. This method has proved satisfactory and economic.

In addition to the above work, the sewer systems of the district were flushed on two occasions and the road gulleys on all district roads were cleansed on two occasions. The vehicle is also used on any required emergency work on sewers and sewage disposal.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

A total of 3,594 visits and inspections were made during the year, as follows:-

Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	531
Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	83
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Complaints	...	...	...	...	...	...	83
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	508
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Ice-Cream Vendors	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Food Preparation Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	83
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Poultry Packing Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Sampling: Ice-Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Water	...	...	...	...	...	...	70
Sewage Effluents and Trade Wastes	...	...	...	...	...	...	68
Shops Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	97
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	55
Streams and Watercourses	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Drains and Sewers: Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	189
Tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Cesspools, Sentic Tanks, Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Refuse Tips	...	...	...	...	...	...	93
Sewage Works	...	...	...	...	...	...	141
Salvage	...	...	...	...	...	...	82
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	...	1068
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Atmospheric Pollution	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	129
Council House Applicants	...	...	...	...	...	...	43

In addition, a total of 922 interviews were given to tenants, landlords, builders and other interested parties.

Nuisances, etc., on Books, with Number of Notices served.
(Public Health Acts only).

Number of Notices outstanding, 31st. December, 1959:	...	...	12
Number of Intimation Notices served during the year:	...	...	46
Number of Statutory Notices served during the year:	...	...	Nil
Number of Notices complied with during the year:	...	...	48
Number of Notices outstanding on Books, 31st. December, 1960:			10

The following list classifies the nuisances and defects dealt with:-

Dampness, rising and penetrative	...	...	...	...	...	10
Defective brickwork, rendering and pointing, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	6
Defective roofs, parapets, gutters, R.W.P's etc.,	...	...	...	...	...	6
Defective ceilings and walls	...	...	...	...	...	7
Defective doors, windows and floors	...	...	...	...	...	6
Defective cooking ranges, firegrates and flues	...	...	...	...	...	4
Defective W.C. structures	...	...	...	...	...	4
Defective fuel stores	...	...	...	...	...	3
Drainage defects	...	...	...	...	...	16
Inadequate means for disposal of surface water	...	...	...	...	...	4
Defective yard surfaces	...	...	...	...	...	4
Defective water service pipes, inadequate or polluted supplies	...	...	...	...	...	3
Absence/Defective condition of dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	40
Offensive accumulations and conditions	...	...	...	...	...	3
Offensive smells/noises/fumes	...	...	...	...	...	4
Nuisance from keeping of animals, poultry or pigeons	...	...	...	...	...	1
Infestations: Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	...	468
Vermin and Insects (including woodworm)	...	...	...	...	...	47

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937-1959.

During the year, a total of 97 visits were paid to factories and workshops throughout the district, which figures does not include visits to Food Preparation Premises also classified as Factories, as these are dealt with under another heading. Conditions generally were found to be satisfactory. At the end of 1960, the number of outworkers on the register was 266, comprising

	<u>Witham U.D.C.</u>	<u>Other Local Authorities.</u>
Glove Manufacturers	33	224
Seed Merchants	6	-
Feather Processors	3	-

Notification of outworkers employed in other districts are sent to the Local Authorities concerned.

Means of Escape in Case of Fire.

Further survey work was done during the year at one factory and one statutory certificate was issued. This work and the records relating to it have now been transferred to the Fire Service, which under the new Act now has the duty of inspection and issue of certificates for this purpose.

Details of the inspections made during the year of premises in the Urban District under the Factories Acts, are given in the Table below:-

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937-1959.

1. INSPECTION for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	2	3	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	51	89	3	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding outworkers)	5	5	Nil	Nil
	58	97	3	Nil

2. CASES in which DEFECTS were found:

	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) -					
(a) Insufficient	2	2	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outworkers)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	3	3	-	1	-

SHOPS ACTS.

In addition to the normal duties of the local authorities, under the Shops Act, 1950, the Council has accepted delegation from the Essex County Council (the major Shops Acts authority) of powers of enforcement of sub-sections 3, 4 and 5 of Section 38.

21 visits were paid to shops during the year, apart from purposes other than Shops Act administration. The following matters were dealt with:-

Routine inspections	21
Structural defects	2
Washing facilities	2
Sanitary accommodation	1
Drainage	2
Shop reconditioning and modernisation	2
Renovation	1
New shops equipped to requirements	1

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

The Council's caravan site, for 12 trailer caravans, remained occupied during the year. On this site plots are let to occupiers at reasonable rentals. Hard standing, water supply, W.C. accommodation, dry ground and waste disposal facilities are provided. The site is lighted at night during street lighting hours.

Demand for plots continues and the site serves a useful purpose. The Council will shortly consider whether it should be kept in use after 1961 when the lease of the land expires. In this connection, it must be remembered that the use of caravans as dwellings will not decrease until the housing shortage is overcome. Caravan and camping sites present problems for local authorities, but they are a feature of the modern community and their hygienic control is most easily exercised when they are Council-owned.

The control of privately owned sites, previously administered separately under the Public Health Act, 1936, and the Town Planning Act, 1947, was coordinated during the year by the passing of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960. Under this Act, a caravan site still requires permission from the local planning authority and a site licence from the local Council, but the latter cannot be issued unless and until the former has been granted. Once a planning permission has been obtained a site licence must be issued by the Council, but is subject to such conditions as the Council think fit to impose for the provision of services and amenities, the maintenance of the site and the health and safety of the occupants. At December, 1960, site licences had been granted in respect of 4 sites, containing 6 caravans. The conditions imposed were based on the Ministry's model requirements.

Some seasonal influx of gypsy type vans still occurs, though this is decreasing year by year. A number of caravans occupied by seasonal agricultural workers also come into the area for varying periods. The gypsy vans seldom stay longer than a day or two, and control of these and those of the agricultural workers (which are exempt from the requirements of the new Act) is limited to supervision and prevention of nuisances.

There are no tents or huts in use for habitation in the Urban District.

INSECT PESTS.

The following cases of infestation were dealt with:-

Carpet beetles	...	...	1.
Flies	...	...	6.
Ants	...	...	1.
Wasps	...	...	38.
Bed Bugs	...	...	1.

Minor infestations are dealt with by the issue of insecticides and advice to the householders concerned. Difficult cases are dealt with by the department on a rechargeable basis.

In addition, the Council's refuse tips are periodically treated to destroy crickets and other insects. Insecticides used are D.D.T. (5%) and gammexane, both in liquid and powder form, cyanide preparations and pyrethrum compounds.

Fumigation of local mills and grain stores is carried out with Hydrogen Cyanide by approved contractors under the provisions of the Hydrogen Cyanide (Fumigation of Buildings) Regulations, 1951.

RODENT CONTROL.

The Council conducts its own Rodent Control service, employing a specially trained part-time operative for the purpose. Liaison is maintained with the pest control department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and with adjoining local authorities. Details of the year's work are as follows:-

Inspections made		254
Treatment visits		874
Infestations found: Mice		302
	Rats: Minor	164
	Major	2
Bodies recovered: Mice		130
	Rat-	641
Estimated kill: Mice		176
	Rats	1079

215 The sewer systems at Witham, Silver End and Rivenhall were treated
satisfactory results. The degree of infestation was found to be insignificant.

A free domestic treatment service has been in operation for some years. This enables prompt action to be taken to deal with incipient infestation. Commercial and industrial infestations are dealt with on a rechargeable basis.

The operative is also responsible for inspection to ensure that the proper fencing of ricks is carried out during threshing operations, and that adequate measures are adopted to deal with any rodents disturbed during such work.

From 1st. October, 1958, when the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food discontinued the national disinfection contract service for agricultural properties, the Council has joined with the neighbouring Braintree Urban and Braintree Rural Councils in providing a similar service. Fourteen contracts were made during 1960 in respect of agricultural holdings in the Witham Urban District.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Only one slaughterhouse was operating during the year. None of the district butchers found it necessary to use local slaughtering facilities, which confirmed the Council's decision in 1954 that no additional facilities were required in the Urban District.

The unsatisfactory position prevailing since 1954 continued throughout 1960. The one operative slaughterhouse, previously described, is a privately owned property, situated unsuitably in the centre of the town and used to conduct a large wholesale slaughtering and meat marketing business. None of the meat produced is consumed locally. It is estimated that the output of the slaughterhouse serves a population of up to 50,000 in other areas.

100% meat inspection was again impossible, as it has been since decontrol of the meat industry. A considerable amount of overtime was worked on meat inspection, but irregular slaughtering hours and heavy overnight and weekend killing were more than the department could cope with. Staff shortage also made matters worse during 1960. 17,583 animals were killed during the year, 9,154 less than in 1959. The inspection percentage rose from 44.0% to 66.5%, the number of animals inspected being 11,698. In respect of this work the Council received by way of Government Grant the inadequate sum of £82.

The unsatisfactory maintenance and operation of the slaughterhouse was again a matter of concern during 1960. In August, following a very adverse report upon conditions found there, the Council renewed the proprietor's slaughterhouse licence for a period of four months only and issued a warning that further renewal would be refused if contraventions of the Slaughterhouse (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958, and the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958, were allowed to continue. On application for further renewal of the licence in November, inspection showed no improvement on conditions found in July. The Council refused to renew the licence and also instructed that proceedings be taken against the proprietor for the contraventions. At the end of the year an appeal was pending against the Council's decision.

(Note: The summonses and appeal, after adjournment, were finally heard at Witham Magistrates' Court on 28/2/1961, when the Magistrates dismissed the proprietor's appeal and inflicted fines amounting to £250 for eleven offences under the Regulations. Further appeals were lodged and were heard at Chelmsford Quarter Sessions on 29/3/1961, when the Appeals Committee also dismissed the licence appeal, but modified the fines to a total of £180).

Comparative Slaughtering Figures 1938-1960.

	<u>1938.</u>	<u>1953.</u>	<u>1954.</u>	<u>1955.</u>	<u>1956.</u>	<u>1957.</u>	<u>1958.</u>	<u>1959.</u>	<u>1960.</u>
Cattle	722	2337	1878	1262	1592	1651	1775	2032	3194
Calves	135	861	719	987	1705	1761	1585	1470	1816
Sheep and Lambs	2438	3704	3625	2875	5629	6153	5657	12267	5264
Pigs	2266	3328	6256	7372	2991	4744	8537	10968	7309
Goats	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Totals	<u>5561</u>	<u>10231</u>	<u>12479</u>	<u>12496</u>	<u>11917</u>	<u>14309</u>	<u>17554</u>	<u>26737</u>	<u>17583</u>
Percentage inspected	100	100	81	42.6	51.4	54.6	59.1	44	66.5

Licensing: Slaughterhouses and Slaughtermen:

At 31st. December, 1960, the following licences were in operation:

Slaughterhouses: Nil. Slaughtermen: 3.

The following Table sets out the particulars of the animals slaughtered and of inspection and condemnation.

	Cattle excluding Cows and Bulls	Cows and Bulls	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed	1404	1790	1816	5264	7309	17583
Number inspected	1031	1247	1316	3801	4303	11698
<u>All Disease except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	3	Nil	11	1	15
Weight in lbs. condemned	Nil	1650	Nil	343	150	2143
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	183	454	5	209	215	1066
Weight in lbs. condemned	2438	5443	53	603	803	9340
Percentage of the number inspect- ed affected with disease other than Tuberculosis or Cysticerci	17.7	36.6	0.4	5.8	5.0	9.2
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	2
Weight in lbs. condemned	640	Nil	Nil	Nil	120	760
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	9	29	Nil	Nil	96	134
Weight in lbs. condemned	223	464	Nil	Nil	1316	2003
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	0.9	2.3	Nil	Nil	2.3	1.2
<u>Cysticercosis.</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	5	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	8
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

No horses were slaughtered within the Urban District during the year

MILK AND DAIRIES.

The local sanitary authority is now responsible only for the supervision of distribution and the registration and licensing of dairies and distributors. The following registrations and licences are in force under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949-1960:-

	<u>Tuberculin Tested.</u>	<u>Pasteurised.</u>	<u>Sterilised.</u>
Dairies (3)	3	3	2
Dealers (5)	5	5	3

As from 1/1/1961, under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1960, the Essex County Council will be the licensing authority for dealers in specially designated milk within the County. The local Council remains the registering authority however for milk distributors and premises (not being dairy farms) used as dairies.

No unsatisfactory conditions were found during 1960 and samples of milk retailed in the district were reported by the laboratory as satisfactory.

One large distributor commenced retailing milk in cartons during the year. At first, public reaction was very mixed, but within a short time the new method was accepted without question. No adverse effect on the milk or its keeping quality has been noted.

ICE-CREAM.

The registration of manufacturers and vendors and their premises is effected by the Urban District under the Essex County Council Act, 1933, and supervision is exercised to ensure compliance with the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947-59. The number of registrations at 31st. December, 1960, was:-

Manufacturers	Nil.
Vendors only	41.
Registered premises	41.

In addition, vendors registered in other areas operate within the Urban District.

Ice-cream is sampled periodically to ascertain its standard of bacterial purity. 7 such samples were taken during the year and the results were as follows:-

Bacteriologist's description	Fruit Ices	Ministry of Health's Provisional Grading.				Total
		I	II	III	IV	
Satisfactory	3	4	-	-	-	7
Passable	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unsatisfactory	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	3	4	-	-	-	7

The number of samples taken was much fewer than usual, due to staff shortage during the summer months.

HYGIENE OF FOOD PREPARATION PREMISES.

The number of premises where food is prepared, stored or retailed, is as follows:-

Restaurants	11
Factory and School Canteens	11
Manufacturing Butchers	8
Bakehouses	3
Fried Fish Shops	2
Retail Butchers' Shops	8
Other Retail Food Shops	50
Retail Wet Fish Shops	3
Licensed Premises and Clubs	22
Egg Packers	1
Fruit Juice Concentrates	1
Maltings	1
Poultry Packing Stations	1

In addition a number of mobile food vans tour the area. There is no food market in Witham.

All are subject to inspection, 129 visits having been made during the year. The Council has adopted Byelaws for Food Handling and Distribution and the Public Health Department maintains contact with all food handlers on matters of food hygiene. Difficulty in maintaining good hygiene at large transport cafes catering for heavy summer coach trade is still experienced. A number of warnings have been issued during the year, but formal action was not necessary. Relations with the trade have been good and conditions can be regarded as generally satisfactory.

The Table below shows defects and other conditions required to be remedied during the year:-

Design and layout of new shops	2
Structural defects	2
Defective/Inadequate sink drainage, hot water and washing facilities	2

Sampling:

No formal samples were taken under Section 91 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, but a number of informal samples have been submitted at the request of members of the public. In no case has adulteration or unfitness been confirmed. The Sampling Officers of the Food and Drugs Authority (the Essex County Council) have kindly supplied the following Table showing results of formal sampling in the Witham district during 1960.

Commodity	Taken in Witham Urban District	Taken outside Urban District on Premises of Wholesalers who supply Shops within Witham U.D.
Baking Powder	1	-
Beef Sausages	-	1
Beverages	2	1
Breakfast Cereal	-	1
Butter	2	8
Buttered Sweets	-	10
Canned Fruit	1	-
Coffee Essence	2	1
Coffee Mixtures	1	-
Cooked Meats	-	6
Cream	1	1
Cream Soup	1	-
Dried Fruit	2	-
Evaporated Milk	-	2
Fish Cakes	1	-
Fish Paste	1	1
Flavouring Essence	1	-
Flour, Plain	1	1
Flour, Self Raising	-	1
Fruit Juice	-	1
Lard	1	1
Margarine	3	3
Meat Paste	-	2
Pork Sausages	-	1
Preserves	-	8
Salad Cream	1	2
Soft Drinks	3	6
Suet	1	2
Sugar	1	-
Tomato Ketchup	1	1
TOTALS	28	61

All the above samples were found on analysis to be satisfactory.

FOOD AND DRUGS - MILK SAMPLES.

Taken in Witham Urban District - January to December, 1960.

Number of Samples taken: 134 (including one at school).
Number of samples satisfactory: 134
Number of samples
unsatisfactory: Nil

Condemnation of Food (other than Meat).

Long standing contact with the local food establishments has resulted in regular notification to the Public Health Department of all unfit and suspected foods. A considerable quantity is voluntarily surrendered for condemnation in this manner. No unfit food was found during routine inspections. The Department takes possession of all food surrendered and arranges for its disposal at the refuse tip. 1 cwt. 2 qrs. 10½ lbs., of various foods were dealt with in this way during 1960.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Following the Council's decision, in 1955, to participate in the Essex Smoke Plan organised by the County Council, routine recordings commenced on 1/1/1957. The plan is designed to assess the general degree of pollution and the effect on the County of the highly industrial Thameside and Metropolitan areas.

In Witham, the following instruments have been installed:-

1. Witham (No. 1 Site) West: One Deposit gauge. Commenced recording 1/1/1957.
One Lead Peroxide
Instrument. Commenced recording 1/1/1957.
2. Witham (No. 2 Site)
Central: One Daily Instrument.
(Smoke and SO₂) Commenced recording 1/1/1957.
3. Rivenhall:
One Daily Instrument.
(Smoke and SO₂) Commenced recording 1/1/1957.

These stations lie roughly along the line of the prevailing wind and will constitute part of the main chain of stations throughout the County.

The year's recording was interrupted by shortage of staff, and figures for 1960 are therefore incomplete. The general level of atmospheric pollution in the district remained low. A review of the results of four years' recording is to be carried out in 1961.

Several minor instances of smoke emission from local furnace stacks were referred to the respective managements and improvements were effected.

No Smoke Control Areas were declared during the year.

STAFF.

Mr. D. Young, Additional Public Health Inspector since October, 1959, left in April to take up an appointment with the Hackney M.B. Mr. Young was a loyal and conscientious colleague and during his short stay at Witham performed much valuable work for the Council. His post was filled by Mr. D. Stedman who commenced duty in August.

The labour establishment of the Department remained unaltered during the year and continued to be subject to staff changes, with resulting disturbance of routine. It is to the credit of the men employed that these essential but unattractive services have been maintained efficiently. I especially commend Mr. T. Thorpe, the Sewage Works Manager, and Mr. T.J. Razey, the Refuse Foreman.

Details of the Department's staff at 31st. December, 1960, were:-

Office: Chief Public Health Inspector, Meat and Foods Inspector.
Additional Public Health Inspector, Meat and Foods Inspector.
Senior Clerical Assistant.
Junior Clerical Assistant (H.M. Forces on National Service).
Part-time Shorthand-Typist.

Cleansing: 1 Foreman.
1 Tin Chargehand/Relief Driver.
1 Refuse Loader/Chargehand.
2 Driver/Loaders.
1 Cesspool/Gulley Emptier Driver.
4 Refuse Loaders.
1 Tiphand.
1 Cesspool/Gulley Emptier Attendant/Relief Driver.
1 Labourer (Part-time).

Sewage Disposal:

1 Works' Manager.
1 Chargehand.
1 Fitter-Attendant.
4 Labourers.

Other: 1 Disinfector/Rodent Operative (Part-time).

The average age of the permanent outside staff is 41 years.

